

# **TOWN OF ROCKLAND**

## **ARTICLES IN WARRANT AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**FY 2007 SPECIAL TOWN  
MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2006  
7:00 P.M.**

**AT THE  
ROCKLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

**Please bring this booklet  
to Town Meeting**



## **RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE MEETING**

**EVERY VOTER** desiring to speak shall arise and address the Chair, after recognition is obtained, state his name and address and stand while speaking, using the microphone in the front, unless otherwise directed. No motion made by anyone will be in order unless this procedure is followed.

**ANY VOTER** has the right to speak for or against any Article. A **NON-VOTER** may speak as long as they have the permission of the Moderator. After you speak on an Article, return to your seat. If you have a question on any Article before the house, address the Chair and I will direct the question to the proper person for an answer.

**THE FINANCE COMMITTEE** recommendation is the first and main motion under each Article and under each Budget. Any attempt by a Department Head or anyone to move another figure would be an amendment to the main motion.

A motion to pass the Article over is the same as defeating the Article.

**IF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE DISAPPROVES AN ARTICLE** it is an automatic motion to **PASS THE ARTICLE OVER** and that will be the first action on the Article.

After the Finance Committee reports on an Article, if they so desire, and the Article is referred to a certain **BOARD, COMMITTEE, or DEPARTMENT HEAD, IT WILL BE THE RULE** that they will be recognized first for their report. **IF I FORGET, REMIND ME.**

**A UNANIMOUS VOTE IS BEST AND SAVES TIME.** If I do not see or hear any objection I will declare it, **"A UNANIMOUS VOTE"**.

If an Article requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> or 4/5<sup>th</sup> vote and it is not **UNANIMOUS**, IT IS THE Moderator's responsibility to see that a vote is taken.

**IF A HAND VOTE** is immediately questioned by seven (7) or more voters who stand to question the **VOTE**; it will be counted by the Tellers.

### **ARTICLE III SECTION 10 OF THE TOWN BY-LAWS STATES:**

**NO VOTE SHALL BE CONSIDERED** except after the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting on a motion to reconsider such vote. Any voter may move to reconsider except that no motion to reconsider shall be made by any adjourned session of the same meeting unless he has given notice of his intention to move reconsideration at the session of the meeting at which the vote was passed. A vote shall not be reconsidered a second time or after a motion to reconsider has failed to pass.

### **TOWN BY-LAW ARTICLE II**

**SECTION 4.** All reports, motions, and resolutions submitted for the consideration of the meeting involving the expenditure of money shall be in writing and other reports, motions or resolutions shall be reduced to writing if the Moderator so directs.

### **TOWN CHARTER**

**SECTION 3.06.** All action taken at any and all Town Meetings shall be only upon those items contained in the Warrant for said Town Meeting and all articles in the Warrant shall be acted upon in order unless otherwise voted at any such Town Meeting, and printed copies of each such Warrant, with the recommendations of the Finance Committee is hereinafter set forth, shall be furnished to the voters of the Town in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.02 (a) (iv) Article II of this Charter.

Paul L. Cusick Jr.  
Town Moderator

## **MUNICIPAL FINANCE TERMINOLOGY**

The following terms are frequently used in the Annual Town Warrant and at Town Meetings. In order to provide everyone with a better understanding of the meaning, the following definitions are provided.

### **SURPLUS REVENUE: (often referred to as “Excess and Deficiency”)**

This fund represents the amount by which the Cash, Accounts Receivable and other floating assets exceed the liabilities and reserve. This is a bookkeeping item.

### **AVAILABLE FUND: (often referred to as “Free Cash”)**

Available Funds is the amount certified annually by the State Bureau of Accounts by deducting from surplus revenue all uncollected taxes for prior years. This fund may be used by a vote for the Town Meeting.

### **OVERLAY:**

The overlay is the amount raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges for the purpose of creating a fund to cover abatements granted and avoiding fractions.

### **OVERLAY RESERVE:**

This is the accumulated amount of the Overlay for various years not used or required to be held in the specific Overlay Account for a given year and may be used by a vote of the Town for extraordinary or unforeseen purposes or voted into the Reserve Fund.

### **RESERVE FUND:**

This fund is established by the votes at an Annual Town Meeting only and may be composed of (a) an appropriation (not exceeding 5% of the tax levy of the preceding year), (b) money transferred from Overlay Reserve, or (c) both.

### **STABILIZATION FUND:**

This is a fund created to provide a reserve for capital expenditure. Appropriations from the Stabilization funds may be made at an Annual Town Meeting by a two-thirds vote for any purpose the Town is authorized to borrow money under Section 7 or 8 of Chapter 44 or for such other purpose as is approved by the Emergency Finance Board.

### **CHERRY SHEET:**

Named for the cherry colored paper on which the Massachusetts Commission of Corporations and Taxation traditionally has printed it. The cherry sheet carries the figures that must be used by the Assessors in determining the amount to be raised by taxation.

It lists the amounts of county tax and state assessments, as well as the established tax distributions from the General Fund, reimbursements, agency funds and the Sales and Use Taxes.

# SPECIAL/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

December 4, 2006

## LIST OF ARTICLES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Special Town Meeting</i>			
#1	Board of Selectmen	Vote to fund Health Insurance	\$1,000,000.00
#2	Middle School Bldg. Com.	Middle School	\$ 250,000.00
#3	Water Department	Lighting upgrades	\$ 5,000.00
#4	Water Department	Heating & ventilation upgrades	\$ 37,500.00
#5	Water Department	FY05 Excise Tax on backhoe	\$ 309.44
#6	Water Department	Installation of chemical feed system	\$ 75,000.00
#7	Water Department	Laying 750ft. of 12" water main	\$ 100,000.00
#8	Water Department	Replacement 31 skylights	\$ 25,000.00
#9	Water Department	Completion of rock excavation	\$ 50,000.00
#10	Town Clerk	Lease/purchase six voting machines	\$ 9,500.00
#11	Town Clerk	Purchase six Accu-Vote Machines	\$ 42,000.00
#12	Sewer Department	Paying legal expenses-US Filter litigation	\$ 150,000.00
#13	Water Department	Construction of upgrades Water Treat. Plant	\$ 450,000.00
#14	Board of Selectmen	Rescind approval of Article #24 5/8/06	\$ 29,000.00
#15	Board of Selectmen	Rescind approval of Article #39 5/8/06	\$ 12,000.00
#16	Middle School Bldg. Com.	Vote to reorganize	N/A
#17	Board of Selectmen	Rescind approval of Article #57 5/8/06	\$ 25,000.00
#18	Board of Selectmen	Vote to reduce the FY07 operating budget	\$1,741,468.00
#19	Board of Selectmen	Unpaid Bill - Massamont	\$ 5,011.18
#20	Board of Selectmen	Add of Stabilization	N/A

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF ROCKLAND  
WARRANT  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

To one of the constables in the Town of Rockland, County of Plymouth and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Greetings:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in town affairs to meet at the

**Marion Mansfield Donovan Auditorium  
Rockland High School  
52 MacKinlay Way**

in said Town on Monday, **December 4, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.**, then and there to act on the following articles

**ARTICLE 1**

Will the Town vote to fund One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) of the Health Insurance line item RR, approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 8, 2006 for \$4,763,365 through a transfer from available funds thus reducing raise and appropriate by said \$1,000,000.00, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: To utilize available funds to offset the current year budget shortage.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

**ARTICLE 2**

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate, borrow or take from available funds the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) to pay expenses related to preliminary design and architectural planning for the construction of a new Middle School, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The Rogers Middle School is in disrepair and the preliminary design and architectural planning provides information for timely submission of plans to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. New round of funding begins on July 1, 2007.**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

### **ARTICLE 3**

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Revenue Account the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), to be used with a like amount from the Town of Abington for lighting upgrades to the Great Sandy Bottom Treatment Plant, or take any action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The lighting is for the filter beds visibility and will increase security at the plant.**

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

##### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

### **ARTICLE 4**

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Reserve Account the sum of Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$37,500.00), to be used with a like amount from the Town of Abington for heating and ventilation upgrades to the Great Sandy Bottom Water Treatment Plant, or take any action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The system at Sandy Bottom is failing and needs upgrading before the winter sets in.**

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

##### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

### **ARTICLE 5**

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Reserve Account the sum of Three Hundred Nine Dollars and Forty Four Cents (\$309.44) for the payment of FY 05 Excise Tax on the Department backhoe, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: Previous bill and monies are due to the Town.**

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

##### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

### **ARTICLE 6**

Will the Town vote to appropriate the sum of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000.00) for the installation of a chemical feed system at the Hannigan and Great Sandy Bottom Water Treatment Plants, and cost incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water pollution Abatement Trust or otherwise; and to take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The Massachusetts Water Abatement Trust Fund has offered the 2% low interest loan monies as a change order to the existing contract. If we do not act now the contract will close out and the monies will be gone.**

#### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

##### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 7**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to transfer from the Water Reserve Account the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for laying approximately 750 feet of 12 inch water main, and for the costs incidental and related thereto, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The monies are in addition to the funding in place to complete the lower end of Pleasant Street. This article is of a timely fashion to complete the project this year before the winter months.**

### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 8**

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Reserve Account the sum of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), to be used with a like amount from the Town of Abington for the purpose of 31 skylights at the Great Sandy Bottom Treatment Plant, or take any action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: During the roof replacement it was apparent that the skylights were deteriorated beyond repair. They need to be replaced before the winter.**

### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 9**

Will the Town vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to take from the Water Reserve Account the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the completion of the rock excavation at the Hannigan Reservoir expansion, or take any action relative thereto?

**EMEGENCY: The intent is to complete the expansion project this December or this coming January.**

### **WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 10**

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,500.00) for five years to lease/purchase six voting machines, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: Vendor will no longer support Optech machines in the State of Massachusetts after December, 2006, and we will not have voting machines for our Annual Town Election in April.**

### **TOWN CLERK**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 11**

Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate or take from available funds the sum of Forty Two Thousand (\$42,000.00) to purchase six Accu-Vote voting machines, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: Vendor will no longer support Optech machines in the State of Massachusetts after December, 2006, and we will not have voting machines for our Annual Town Election in April**

**TOWN CLERK**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 12**

Will the Town vote to take from Sewer Department Unreserved Fund Balance Account the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) for the purpose of paying legal expenses accumulated during the Town of Rockland/US Filter litigation or take any action relative thereto?

**SEWER DEPARTMENT**

**TOWN CLERK**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 13**

Will the Town vote to rescind its vote under Article #21 of the May 9, 2005, Special Town Meeting which accepted to appropriate \$450,000.00 and to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust for the construction of upgrades to the Water Treatment Plants, and costs incidental and related thereto, or otherwise; and to take any other actions relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: Article voted twice. Requested by Town Treasurer for housekeeping.**

**WATER DEPARTMENT**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 14**

Will the Town vote to rescind approval of Article #24 of the May 8, 2006 Annual Town Meeting that authorized the expenditure of Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$29,000.00) to purchase one (1) police cruiser, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: To reduce current budget deficit.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 15**

Will the Town vote to rescind approval of Article #39 of the May 8, 2006 Annual Town Meeting that authorized the expenditure of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) for purchasing hardware and software for the ambulance billing system, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: To reduce current budget deficit.**

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

#### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 16**

Will the Town vote to organize the Middle School Building Committee as follows:

- One member of the Board of Selectmen, appointed by the Board
- One member of the School Committee, appointed by the Committee
- One member of the Finance Committee, appointed by the Committee
- One member of the Capital Planning Committee, appointed by the Committee
- One member of the Permanent Building committee, appointed by the Committee
- Superintendent of Schools
- Assistant Superintendent of Schools
- Principal of the Middle School
- Director of School Building and Grounds
- Nine members of the community
  - ❖ 5 members appointed by the Town Moderator, for three year term
  - ❖ 2 members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, for three year term
  - ❖ 2 members appointed by the School Committee, for a three year term

or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The Rogers Middle School is in disrepair and the above is the recommended membership for a School Building Committee per the regulations adopted by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA), 963CMR 2.00.**

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

#### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## **ARTICLE 17**

Will the Town vote to rescind approval of Article #57 of the May 8, 2006 Annual Town Meeting that authorized the expenditure of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to repair the fire escapes at the McKinley Community Center, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: To reduce the current budget deficit.**

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

#### **Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting**

## ARTICLE 18

Will the Town vote to reduce the Fiscal Year 2007 departmental operating budget as follows:

### FY07 BUDGET CUTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>LINE ITEM</u>	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>REVISED APPROPRIATION</u>	<u>FINCOM RECOMMENDATION</u>	<u>TA CUT</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2	B	Board of Selectmen	142,007.00	15,238.66	0.00	
3	C	Finance Committee	236,260.00	0.00	18,900.00	
4	D	Town Accountant	176,661.00	11,807.24	14,132.00	
5	E	Assessor	152,688.00	12,056.90	14,430.00	
6	F	Treasurer	220,746.00	17,837.42	17,659.00	
7	G	Tax Collector	133,397.00	3,928.73	10,671.00	
9	I	Town Clerk	128,423.00	12,449.28	10,273.00	
12	L	Planning Board	6,925.00	765.00	554.00	
13	M	Town Hall	84,254.00	0.00	18,100.00	16%
16	P	Zoning Board	5,000.00	0.00	400.00	
17	Q	Police Department	3,145,622.00	298,679.99	260,725.00	-Art #24
18	R	Fire Department	2,866,932.00	351,626.71	317,354.00	-Art #39
19	S	Building Department	101,121.00	7,975.42	8,089.00	
20	T	Gas Inspector	6,190.00	266.51	495.00	
21	U	Plumbing Inspector	9,736.00	441.20	778.00	
22	V	Weights/Measures	4,633.00	217.41	370.00	
23	W	Wiring Inspector	25,282.00	1,159.75	2,022.00	
25	Y	Tree Department	63,346.00	2,337.99	5,067.00	
26	X	Emergency Management	24,630.00	0.00	1,970.00	
28	BB	Board of Health	125,922.00	10,174.41	10,073.00	
29	CC	Visiting Nurse	16,979.00	1,006.73	1,358.00	
31	EE	Highway	584,154.00	84,130.48	67,556.00	
34	HH	Veteran's Services	176,306.00	2,139.06	14,104.00	
35,36	II	School Department	18,290,632.00	821,668.83	829,044.00	
37	JJ	South Shore Regional	938,437.00		12,136.00	
38	KK	Library	429,687.00	36,856.26	34,374.00	
40	MM	Council on Aging	88,510.00	7,453.88	7,080.00	
41	NN	Youth Commission	87,410.00	3,487.53	6,992.00	
42	OO	Park Department	187,537.00	17,549.23	15,002.00	
50	WW	Teen Center	10,000.00	1,912.72	800.00	
		Rescind Article #57 5/8/06			-25,000.00	
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,675,468.00</b>	

Or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: The current year operating budget has a significant shortfall that must be addressed by reducing departmental funding.**

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting

## ARTICLE 19

Will the Town vote to transfer from available funds for the purpose of paying an unpaid bill from the prior fiscal year of Five Thousand Eleven Dollars and Eighteen Cents (\$5,011.18) for legal expenses to Massamont Insurance, or take any other action relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: Relative to legal action against Planning Board Members not covered due to deductible.**

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting

## ARTICLE 20

Will the Town vote to appropriate from taxation, transfer or from available funds a sum of money to the stabilization fund, or act in any manner relative thereto?

**EMERGENCY: To place any available funds in the Town's savings account.**

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

#### Finance Committee Recommendations at Town Meeting

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting copies at least fourteen (14) days prior to said meeting in each of the six precincts in said Town.

Hereof, fail not, and make return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, on the Town Clerk, at the time and place of holding said meeting.

Given under our hand this sixth day of November, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Six and of the Independence of the United States of America, the Two Hundred Twenty Ninth.

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Keven D. Pratt, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mary A. Parsons, Selectmen**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kelli A. O'Brien-McKinnon, Vice-Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Louis U. Valanzola, Selectmen**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Lawrence J. Chaffee, Selectmen**

## RETURN OF SERVICE

This is to certify that I have this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2006, posted this warrant in each of the six precincts in the Town of Rockland.

ATTEST:

CONSTABLE

